

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OPR-02 A-02 OC-06

CCO-00 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 HA-05 USSS-00 SMS-01

ANAE-00 ACDA-12 /106 W

-----107878 281945Z /50

O P 281847Z DEC 79

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6620

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8669

CINCPAC AND CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/28/85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M

TAGS: PEPR, PINR, PGOV, ASEC, AF, UR

SUBJ: SITREP #10: SOVIET OCCUPATION OF KABUL

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. IT IS 2100 HOURS KABUL TIME, A FREEZING BUT CLEAR NIGHT,
AND THIS WILL BE OUR LAST SITREP FOR THE DAY.

3. FOR 20 MINUTES NOW WE HAVE BEEN WITNESSING AN IMPRESSIVE
PARADE OF SOVIET MILITARY VEHICLES MOVING FROM IN TOWN
TOWARDS THE AIRPORT. PASSING OUR EMBASSY WERE 85 BMD'S
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(TRACKED CANNON-MOUNTED ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS), 30 TROOP
TRANSPORTS WITH SOLDIERS, 8 TRUCKS TOWING ARTILLERY, AND
2 GREASE OR FUEL TRUCKS. WE SURMISE THEY WERE EITHER THE
STRIKE FORCE WHICH DESTROYED AMIN IN HIS DARULAMAN REDOUBT,
WHERE MOST OF THE FIGHTING OCCURRED, OR POSSIBLY A CONVOY

ARRIVING FROM THE NORTH.

4. OTHER THAN THIS NOISY PASSING CLANK-CLANK OF VEHICLES, THE NIGHT HAS BEEN QUIET. IN THE CHANCERY WE HAVE BEEN BEHAVING OURSELVES, AND WILL SHORTLY BE SHOWING OUR NIGHT OWLS AN R-RATED MOVIE. FOR SOME OF US, IT WILL BE TIME TO RETREAT TO A SOFA TO SLEEP.

5. WITH ALL AFGHAN OPPOSITION IN KABUL SEEMINGLY CRUSHED, AND THE POPULACE COWED, WE DON'T EXPECT TROUBLE IN THE CAPITAL FOR A FEW DAYS. AFTER THAT, HOWEVER, I THINK URBAN TERRORISM WILL BECOME A FACT OF LIFE HERE, SOMETHING WE WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT.

6. IN REFLECTING UPON THE EVENTS OF THE LAST 24 HOURS, I CAN'T HELP BUT BE STRUCK BY THE HYPOCRACY AND DECEIT OF THE SOVIETS. IN THE "KABUL TIMES" OF LAST NIGHT, THE LAST PUBLISHED UNDER THE HAFIZULLAH AMIN REGIME, VARIOUS SOVIETS WERE DEPICTED IN THE PAGES SMILING AND PAYING OBEISANCE TO THE REGIME.

7. LIKE THE SOVIETS, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SHAH MOHAMMAD DOST (NOW FOREIGN MINISTER) YESTERDAY ALSO PLAYED TO THE HILT THE ROLE OF PREVARICATOR. WHEN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR PERRUCHE CALLED ON HIM YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND MENTIONED THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET TROOPS IN TOWN, DOST'S REPLY WAS ONE OF FEIGNED SURPRISE AND THEN DENIAL OF THE TRUTH OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS IMPERIALIST-INSPIRED RUMOR.

8. FINALLY, I WISH TO OBSERVE THAT IN PONDERING OVER THE EVENTS OF LAST NIGHT WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE EFFICIENT EXECUTION OF THE SOVIET ACTION. UNDER COVER OF NIGHTFALL, THEY STRUCK SWIFTLY AT RADIO AFGHANISTAN, AT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, AND THEN AT THE KEY DARULAMAN AREA STRONGHOLD WHERE AMIN WAS RESIDING, AND IN A FEW HOURS WIPED OUT THE OPPOSITION. THEN, BEFORE DAYLIGHT CREPT OVER THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS, THE SOVIETS ACTED SWIFTLY TO TOW AWAY ALL THE DESTROYED AFGHAN AND SOVIET TANKS AND BMD'S, AS WELL AS ALL DEAD AND WOUNDED CASUALTIES. EXCEPT FOR THE OBVIOUS DAMAGE TO A FEW BUILDINGS, SUCH AS THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND OUT AT THE DARULAMAN COMPLEX, THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE AROUND THIS MORNING, EXCEPT THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET VEHICLES AND TROOPS, THAT THERE HAD EVER BEEN FIERCE FIGHTING THE NIGHT BEFORE.

9. GOOD NIGHT FROM ALL OF US IN KABUL. AMSTUTZ

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